ANTIBIOTIC THERAPY—Henry Welch, Ph.D., Director, Division of Antibiotics, Food and Drug Administration, Federal Security Agency of the United States Government; and Charles N. Lewis, M.D., Medical Officer, Division of Antibiotics, Food and Drug Administration, Federal Security Agency of the United States Government. The Arundel Press, Inc., Washington, D. C. $10.00.

This book of 560 pages, heavily documented, is more a work of reference than a treatise to be read through from cover to cover. The first chapters deal with the individual antibiotics in order of discovery, taking up systematically their preparation, composition, pharmacology, and antibiotic qualities. Then come sections on infections with particular bacteria or special diseases such as syphilis. Treatment is discussed in rather diagramatic and at times almost dogmatic fashion, nor do the brief definitions of disease seem to serve much purpose. It is hardly necessary to tell the medical reader that syphilis is caused by Treponema pallidum, etc., etc., or that brucellosis is caused by various forms of Brucella. Indeed one gets the impression that the writers, who are members of the Food and Drug Administration of the Federal Security Agency, are writing a treatise for general information and not entirely a manual for practicing doctors, although any practitioner will find the book invaluable. More could be said about the recent work on antibiotic synergism and antagonism.

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DIABETES CONTROL—Edward L. Bortz, M.D., Chief of Medical Service B, The Lankenau Hospital, Associate Professor of Medicine, Graduate School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania. Lea and Febiger, Philadelphia, 1951. 264 pages. $3.50.

This book is a generally sound, up-to-date manual written for the intelligent diabetic patient in such language that he can understand it and from such a viewpoint that he can be optimistic about his condition. The physician caring for diabetes may well recommend it to his patients.

Along with these remarks of overall commendation the reviewer must note certain criticisms: There is a tendency to glibness without foundation in such comments as the one on the amount of rest one needs (page 193): "It was Henry Fielding who said that an hour of sleep before midnight was worth two afterwards and Heiser says this is still true." ... Food exchanges are first mentioned on page 62 but the system is not explained until page 109. ... The tables of weight for men and women list average rather than ideal or optimum weights as "normal" and tend to detract from an otherwise excellent chapter on weight control. . . . Although the appendix on the composition of alcoholic beverages notes that "the bold face numerals indicate the number of grams ... in an average portion," the bold face type has been unaccountably omitted (despite its presence in the text from which the table is taken).

The author is urged to remedy these defects in a later edition.

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FROM DUGOUT TO HILLTOP—Margaret R. Stewart, M.D. Murray & Gee, Inc., Culver City, 1951. 233 pages. $3.75.

Dr. Stewart's account of her life story from the pioneer home to the practice of medicine is indeed a fascinating tale. It not only is her personal story but it gives an excellent account of the United States and its rapid expansion and development in the century of any one life span. The book itself is indeed readable, it is full of humor, it has many gay spots but also it tells of tragedy and danger. It is a worthwhile book both for its human qualities and its historical account.

THE GENETICS OF MICRO-ORGANISMS—D. G. Catcheside, Reader in Plant Cytogenetics, University of Cambridge, Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge. Pitman Publishing Corporation, 2 West 45th Street, New York 19, 1951. 223 pages. $4.50.

The field of microbial genetics has expanded dramatically during the past decade. In spite of the theoretical and practical importance it has assumed, no book dealing exclusively with inheritance and variation in micro-organisms has previously appeared. Professor Catcheside has now provided a most useful introduction to the subject, based on lectures originally prepared for biochemists specializing in microbiology.

Problems, methods, and outstanding results are outlined for representative organisms in which genetic problems have been studied intensively. Chapters devoted to genetic analysis in fungi, to gene action ("biochemical genetics") and to mutation and adaptation, are appropriately centered around the fungus Neurospora. The comparative biology of sexual reproduction is discussed with reference to a wide variety of forms, chiefly fungi, and following chapters are devoted to yeast genetics (including discussions of the adaptive enzymes and cytoplasmic inheritance) and to the genetics of protozoa (dealing chiefly with the intricate but beautiful findings on relations between nucleus, cytoplasm, and environment in Paramecium). A chapter on bacterial genetics contains an account of recombination studies and genetic mapping in *E. coli*, a thorough discussion of mutation-rate measurements, and a critique of the problem of distinguishing mutation and selection from induced adaptive change in bacterial populations. Finally, studies on mutation and recombination of bacterial viruses, and on the genetics of resistance and infectivity of the bacterium-bacteriophage system, are described. (Perusal of the highly selected bibliography of 200-odd publications reveals that an impressive number of papers have originated from universities in California.)

While certain topics (e.g. gene-controlled biosyntheses, host-parasite relations, drug resistance) bear an obvious relationship to medical problems, the author has not attempted to emphasize practical aspects, and the book will disappoint any who expect applications to be stressed. But those who desire a critical summary of numerous exciting developments in microbiology will find the book rewarding.

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A TEXTBOOK OF CLINICAL NEUROLOGY — Third Edition—J. M. Nielsen, B.S., M.D., F.A.C.P., Clinical Professor of Neurology and Psychiatry, University of Southern California. 212 illustrations. Paul B. Hoeber, Inc., 49 East 33rd Street, New York 16, N.Y., 1951. 709 pages, $10.00.

Each succeeding edition of this textbook of Neurology has shown distinct improvement, until now it must be acknowledged to be one of the most adequate texts available. Since no neurologist can be equally adept at all branches of the specialty, so one must have his preference for different textbooks for different aspects of the subject. Nielsen's work, however, shows remarkably good balance, and can be recommended to student and practitioner alike.

As is inevitable in a book of this scope, certain minor errors have crept in, particularly in fields with which the author was not too familiar from personal experience. Thus, the statement is made that the threshold of denervated muscle to galvanic stimulation is raised, while quite the contrary is the fact. Again, he speaks of muscle action potentials with "a millivoltage of 10 to 1200" where the proper word is microvoltage. Such minor slips of the pen will undoubtedly disappear from subsequent printings, and do not materially detract from the value of this really first-rate textbook.